



## ACCELERATE

Welcome, once again, to **Accelerate** – the monthly newsletter to inform and engage partners in the 'Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge' programme.

Readers will by now be aware that there are four themes of the Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge:

- **Attainment:** we want more young people to achieve good results at 16 and upwards
- **Progression:** we want more young people to stay in education and training, for longer
- **Employer engagement:** we want more employers to get involved in education, more often and more effectively
- **NEETs:** we want to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education and training

This edition, however, focuses on a recent visit to London by members of the Challenge Steering Group to find out how their experiences can inform the programme in Yorkshire and Humber.

### Learning from London

During October, members of the Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge Steering Group took part in a Learning Visit to London, to see and hear at first hand how the London Challenge has made a lasting difference to schools across the capital.

The London Challenge has a very strong identity and a shared goal, as set out in 'Vision for London 2008-2011'. The vision sets out how the Challenge will help 'good' schools become 'great' schools over the next three years, whilst also ensuring that all schools in London will be above the floor target of 30% of pupils achieving five or more GCSE's at A\*-C including English and maths.

The London Challenge pioneered the 'families of schools' concept, which groups schools with broadly similar characteristics in terms of the prior attainment of pupils and the relative deprivation of their catchment areas. This has made it possible for schools to share ideas and experience very directly. A further feature of the London Challenge is a team of 'Consultant Leaders' – all of them serving or retired headteachers – who provide direct support to secondary and primary schools.

Since the London Challenge was launched, several initiatives have been developed such as 'Keys to Success', which at its most practical level awards badges to teachers

and students for excellent performance throughout a school year. Work has also been done to support the recruitment and retention of teachers, through programmes such as Teach First, the development of a Chartered London Teacher Status and the introduction of four 'Teaching Schools'.

As part of the visit, the delegation spent a morning at Battersea Park School, where they met the inspiring Headteacher and a number of pupils. They heard about how the 'Keys to Success' works in practice, as well as how mentors from a range of organisations support aspiration-raising of each pupil in Year 11. This element of the visit demonstrated the real impact that a concerted and cohesive effort can have on pupil motivation and attainment.

For further details, visit <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/citychallenge/london.shtml>.

## What does this mean for Yorkshire and Humber?

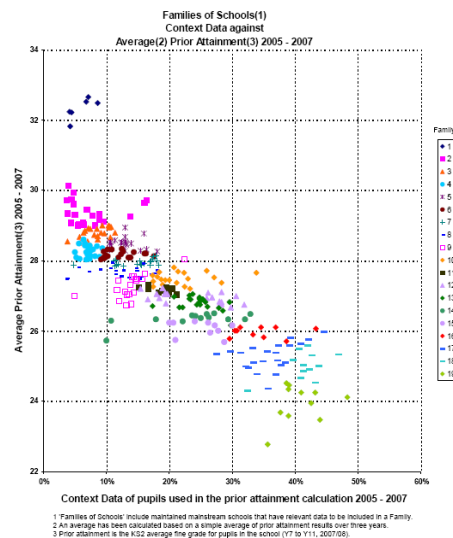
The Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge is about enabling young people to achieve their potential by using enterprise and the direct engagement of employers to keep them motivated to learn. To support this work, we have followed the London Challenge method of grouping the region's schools into 19 "families". On the graph below, the vertical axis represents the prior attainment of children as they enter secondary school, while the horizontal axis tracks the relative deprivation of each school's catchment area. Each coloured mark is a school, and each colour symbolises one of the 19 "families".

Schools from two of the families have been invited to attend a pilot workshop where we will explore how we could work with them on themes such as:

- boosting employer engagement in diplomas and other aspects of the 14-19 curriculum,
- improving access to information about careers and further learning,
- arranging taster days at colleges and universities for students in Year 9, and
- sharing ideas for motivating and engaging young people at risk of dropping out early.

Colleagues from London have kindly agreed to come and tell us what they did, how well it worked, and what they might do differently if they were starting again from scratch.

It is important for the Yorkshire and Humber Challenge to add value, not to duplicate other initiatives. We will therefore focus particularly on employer engagement and using enterprise to engage young people in the curriculum, which in turn will encourage more young people to stay in education or training after the age of 16. We will also continue to look for more and better ways of sharing what works well in our region, ensuring the transformation of education and training through strong and consistent collaboration.



**Stop press ... the employer engagement website, [www.businessinschools.co.uk](http://www.businessinschools.co.uk), was launched in September. Half of the region's schools have registered already, along with several hundred employers!**

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Challenge in more detail, please contact either David Harbourne on 07738 167106 or email [dharbourne@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dharbourne@tiscali.co.uk), or Janette Gudgeon on 0113 383 0205 or email [janette.gudgeon@yfef.org.uk](mailto:janette.gudgeon@yfef.org.uk). Alternatively, visit the website – [www.yh14-19challenge.co.uk](http://www.yh14-19challenge.co.uk).



Alternatively, if you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email 'Accelerate unsubscribe' to [kate.woodcock@yfef.org.uk](mailto:kate.woodcock@yfef.org.uk). YPEF is also leading on the roll-out of the 'Enterprising Yorkshire – Inspiring Young Minds' campaign across the region.

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